

MEGHALAYA PEOPLES' COMMITTEE ON AADHAAR

Shillong, 16 February, 2017.

STATEMENT ON AADHAAR

At its very recent meeting the Meghalaya Peoples' Committee on Aadhaar (MPCA) has decided to express appreciation to ----

01. the Honourable Supreme Court's interim order in that **Aadhaar is to be voluntary and not mandatory enrolment** and that it remains intact until the case is finally decided though its 06 February, 2017 ruling states, "...The person who comes for recharge of the phone should be given a form to give his details including Aadhaar number..." which does not imply that enrolment of Aadhaar and submission of aadhaar number has become mandatory for all purposes.
02. the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSHSEB) for not making submission of Aadhaar number a mandatory requirement for students appearing in the recent Class X and Class XII Board Examinations;
03. the Transport Office, Moradabad, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for having rejected submission of Aadhaar number with regard to applying for license, vehicle registration and permit, etc.
04. the Union Government for exempting Meghalaya, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir from mandatory submission of Aadhaar number with regard to receiving LPG, PDS, etc.

However, it is noticed and have been informed regularly that subtle ways are being used to have people enrolled with Aadhaar including school children under various guises, putting people in uncomfortable situations and that the statement made by the State Government's Chief Secretary on the matter (Shillong Times, 04/02/2017) confirms the fact. However, despite the fact that different departments and ministries of the Union Government and State Government, financial institutions have over and over again issued notifications, advertisements, including regular texting in mobiles, for necessity to enrol or register for aadhaar card, it is reiterated and reminded that enrolment for Aadhaar is voluntary and so should not be coerced and intimidated by any establishment of Government(s), institutions - medical, educational, financial, sports, etc. including corporate bodies.

It has been decided therefore to request upon residents of the State not to be fearful of any coercion, intimidation and/threat for having Aadhaar number and Aadhaar card as there is very much the freedom of choice to enrol or not to enrol for Aadhaar card and should you face or are/is confronted with coercion, threat and the likes, feel free to contact/ inform any of the mentioned persons who shall certainly forward your complaints to the appropriate Authority. If the enforcement comes from Govt. officials/staff, school teaching and non-teaching staff including administrators, and other govt agencies, bank staff/officials, please ensure that you get a copy of their written instructions that you must have Aadhaar card and should you be penalised in any way for not having Aadhaar card, please seek explanation from them and inform us accordingly.

It was further decided to inform that those who have already enrolled for Aadhaar, you have the option to opt out by requesting the UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) Centre nearest or Govt. Office / educational institution / bank branch / any other responsible for your Aadhaar enrolment that

- you want to opt from Aadhaar number enrolment out by deleting all biometric demographic authentication and any other data that is on the UIDAI data base and that the same be informed to the concerned person when the action of deletion is done;
- you be informed of any places where your UID number has been 'seeded';
- you be informed of any agency where your UID number has been 'seeded' and that deletion of the number from the data base be done forthwith;
- you do not allow your data to be used by UIDAI, any third party or shared with any third party and if there was any such consent given earlier, that it stands withdrawn forthwith.

And that such action to withdraw from Aadhaar registration undertaken by anyone and/ collectively, maybe shared with members of MPCA.

Yes, having Aadhaar card maybe one of the requirements but it is not the only proof of one's identity and must remain optional and voluntary.

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